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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR HVM ZAPATA II LTD

ZAPATA, TEXAS, February 16, 2005 -- USDA Rural Development will participate in a ground breaking ceremony for HVM Zapata II, in Zapata, Texas. HVM Zapata II received a \$1,000,000 Rural Rental Housing loan to construct the Los Ebanos apartments.

"USDA Rural Development is delighted to participate in this project that will benefit the rural residents of Zapata." said Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

The funds will be used to construct a 28 unit elderly complex in Zapata County with 100% of rental assistance subsidy. The complex will include two units designated for elderly and disabled tenants and will draw residents from the surrounding areas of Medina, Falcon Lake Estates, Falcon Mesa and Siesta Shores.

USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Rural Rental Housing loans are made to provide rental housing complexes that will serve the needs of a specific community.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and its mission is to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Rio Grande City Local Office at 956-487-5576, Ext. 4 or visit our website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/

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